



KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
Ligonier, PA 15658
724~238~9320
JULY 2006 UPDATE

Dear Knitters,

Calling all chicks with sticks -- it's a color-full "girly-girl" July at Kathy's Kreations! Brighten up your summer with the "painter's palette" of hot, fresh summer hues on our shelves. There are so many choices that you can make something in every color of the rainbow! Let your yarn be the paint, your needles your brushes, and let the magic begin.

We've got "knits in bloom", fashion-wise patterns and sun-loving styles with modern lines that go from work to weekend. Handbags and purses, both felted and non-felted, knit and crochet, are making style news this season. These smart accessories are perfect for carrying socks or other small take-along projects. Wraps, stoles and shawls continue to make a strong fashion statement, for a "finish-the-outfit" piece that perfectly expresses your individuality. It's knitted fabric made fun.

A trip to Kathy's is sure to be the start of something beautiful on your knitting needles and crochet hooks. Play it cool, colorful and casual this summer with our special promotions...

"KNITTING IS COOL -- BEAT THE HEAT"
All regularly-priced **CRYSTAL PALACE YARNS** in stock
are 10% off during July 2006

"GIRLY-GIRL TIME"
Special bargains and freebies for you
and a knitting or crochet friend (bring a buddy!)
July 14 - 22, 2006

Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday
Kathy is usually away on Wednesday, but the shop is open

We accept Mastercard, VISA, Discover/Novus, AX

Private knitting and crochet instructions are available by appointment
Finishing services available
Gift certificates available

Shopping at Kathy's Kreations has never been easier
COME IN - CALL UP - LOG ON
Telephone 724-238-9320
e-mail kathy@kathys-kreations.com
please visit our website www.kathys-kreations.com



photo
© Fiber Trends

***** GREAT NEW STUFF *****

Color is magic! Imagine the possibilities -- who says colors have to coordinate? Instead of teaming brights with neutrals, mix and match them to create fabulously upbeat and up-to-the minute looks that beg to be noticed. Color takes center stage in styles that are trendsetting, fresh, and fabulous. Kick your wardrobe into high gear with cool shades that reflect your personality...

What's the hot knitting technique for summer knitting among our customers? Felting, mostly bags and also hats, slippers and clogs. FIBER TRENDS AC-76 "Gelato Bag" (\$5.25, shown upper left) is fun to knit, fab to wear. Pistachio, mango, or strawberry -- why not make this bright and cheerful felted purse to match your favorite flavor? NONI BAGS are the ultimate "girly-girl" bags with ruffles and floral embellishments. New arrivals include "The Garden Party Bag in Two Styles" (shown lower right), "In The Sculpture Garden" triangle baguette and "Two Versions of Two Felted Evening Bags" (\$8.50 each). Other individual NONI patterns are "Camellia Flowers for felting, or not" and "Spider Chrysanthemums & Daisies, for felting or not" (\$5.95 each). Non-felted handbags are starting to make a statement of their own. A variety of purse and bag handles from CLOVER will be available soon...

Also very popular (no surprise), socks for travel and beach knitting are enjoying renewed popularity. Treat those tired tootsies by wearing a pair of socks made from SKACEL COLLECTION / AUSTERMANN's "Step" (\$18.50, 75% virgin wool / 25% nylon, 100 grams, 459 yards). Extracts of jojoba and aloe vera infused right into the yarn soothe skin while you stride, or sit; the effect lasts up to 40 washings and one ball will make a pair of socks. The lotiony goodness also feels wonderful on those fingers using size 1 or 2 dpns. We've just received a new supply of "Step", in colorways woodsy to bright, that work up in varying band widths, and "Trekking" (\$14.50, 75% virgin wool / 25% nylon, 100 grams, 459 yards), in tweeds and random stripes...

Once again, BERROCO YARNS takes the lead in delivering knitting fashion with its all new look. "Ultra Alpaca" (\$8.50, 100 grams, 215 yards, 50% alpaca / 50% wool) is a brilliant newcomer to the BERROCO family of fine knitting yarns. Having taken its respected place as a leader in the range of classic yarns, "Ultra Alpaca" is a superb worsted weight knitting yarn with unsurpassed stitch quality. It's also a perfect choice for felting, as well as a great value. "Ultra Silk" (\$9.50, 50 grams, 98 yards, 20% silk / 40% rayon / 40% nylon) is a round, knit ribbon with unique qualities of touch, elasticity and stability. A hosiery-like tube of silk and rayon encloses a core of airy nylon roving. The result is the ultimate in stitch definition and softness with the recognizable luster of silk...

We will be featuring a trunk show of 9 designs from NASHUA HANDKNITS "Vacation" and "Occasion" Spring/Summer Pattern Collections (\$14.95 each). We've added two new yarns for this display: "Sassafras" (\$9.50, 50 grams, 125 yards, 50% cotton / 50% acrylic), a sassy ribbon wrapped with multi-color threads in varying thicknesses, and "Cilantro" (\$8.50, 50 grams, 136 yards, 70% cotton / 30% polyester), a wonderful smooth basic with excellent stitch detail. Two of the model garments from the show, a cable-edged cardigan from "June" yarn and a hoodie from "Cilantro", are shown on page 8...



photo
© NONI BAGS

***** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF *****

What's new from LISA KNITS? "My First Cardigan" (\$4.00, shown right) is a heavy worsted weight classic with set-in sleeves, in 12 sizes -- child's 2 through adult's XXL. Not just for beginners, this pattern serves as a canvas for more experienced knitters looking for a basic pattern for handpainted, tweed, marled, novelty, or self-stripping yarns...



photo
© Lisa Knits

Catch the magic of cables in CLASSIC ELITE YARNS' Fall 2006 Collection. Guest designer, our very own Kathy Zimmerman, is featured in nine unique patterns which serve as the centerpiece of more than sixty magnificent new designs. Kathy's cabled handbag, knit from her all-time favorite yarn, "Montera", is shown at lower left. Fall's eagerly awaited booklets will be available in late July, and a special "Crazy About Cables" day is planned for late summer. Kathy will be signing posters, autographing booklets, and teaching a special cables class. Contact us to pre-order your pattern books now...

Who can resist the allure of silk blend yarns? CLASSIC ELITE introduces "Classic Silk" (\$7.50, 50 grams, 135 yards, 50% cotton / 30% silk / 20% nylon), which knits to 5 sts/inch on US size 6 needles. Reasons to knit with "Classic Silk": it is light & lofty, colors look great together or alone, and it has a soft hand. Also new is RYC "Natural Silk Aran" (\$9.50, 50 grams, 71 yards, 73% viscose/15% silk/12% linen), a beautiful, shiny marl, which knits to 4.75 sts /inch on US size 7 needles. RYC Book Nine "Classic Beach" (\$16.95) includes essential beachwear handknits that are a feast of textures using this yarn. This cool, crunchy silk/linen blend has a unique lustre which brings extra dimension to the Aran pattern stitches. The subtle palette is inspired by the sea, driftwood and colors of the beach and dunes...

Last month's trunk show and window display featured vests from OAT COUTURE (patterns \$5.00 each) in a tailored silhouette: GU404 Family Quilt Tuxedo Vest (colorful intarsia patterning); GU401 Entrelac Tuxedo Vest (classic styling), and PH601 Terre Bonne Tuxedo Vest (to crochet). New supplies of the patterns have arrived...

COLINETTE YARNS set the standard for quality and color excellence in hand-painted yarns. Two new books are now available (\$17.50 each): "Muse" (very feminine styles with lots of ruffles and drapiness, including a fabulous crochet stole) and "Akashya" (frills, deep ribs, contemporary styling)...

New from CASCADE YARNS is "Bollicine Dolly" (\$7.50, 50 grams, 153 yards, 100% merino wool), an irresistible superwash DK weight classic yarn. This yarn was featured in Jean Frost's "Belladonna" Jacket in KNITTER'S MAGAZINE Summer 2006 issue and was requested so much that we just *had* to stock it...



photo
© Classic Elite
Yarns

It's time for "Christmas in July" knitting! Now is the time to start making Christmas stockings for new additions to your family. Check out JAEGER'S "Fur" (\$11.50, 50 grams, 22 yards, 47% wool /47% kid mohair/6%polyamide) a super-bulky weight thick lash trim yarn for Santa beards, cuffs and furry accents...



photo
© Interweave Press

***** NOW ON OUR BOOKSHELF *****

It's here -- the expanded and updated version of *The Knitter's Companion* (\$19.95, spiral bound, shown left). This little gem features all of the original best-loved and most-used techniques from the original version, as well as full-color drawings of the individual steps and photographs of the completed looks. Innovative methods have been added, too, including many ways to cast on, bind off, and increase stitches. You'll even find a new section on color knitting techniques, plus favorite details such as tassels, fringe, knitting with beads, and more. We've used the first edition for years as our "bible for beginners" and still consider this to be a "must-have" resource for knitters of all skill levels...

Welcome a new baby with *Natural Knits for Babies and Moms* (\$21.95, softcover). Inspired by an abundance of natural fiber yarns, Louisa Harding had an idea: to wrap new babies and their mothers in warm, soothing handknits made with love and a respect for nature. This book brings Harding's vision to life in 21 luscious patterns including: a unique "bump" sweater that fits and flatters an expectant mother throughout her pregnancy; exquisite hats, booties and mittens to keep little ones warm; simple and classic blankets, pillows and toys that make perfect gifts; adorable and comfortable sweaters for boys and girls; and stylish, practical sweaters for nursing mothers. This collection combines sophisticated design, cuddly textures, and environmentally friendly materials. Knitters will feel good about their projects, and mothers and babies will feel great in these beautiful handknits...

Just like in your high school yearbook, everyone you know is in *Not Another Teen Knitting Book* (\$14.95, softcover). Whether you're a preppie, a Jock, or a Nerd, these hip, fun, and creative projects will make you grab some yarn and start knitting. Author Vickie Howell is the host of DIY's *Knitty Gritty*. On the cutting edge of crafting, you'll love Vickie's projects, even if you're not an expert. Projects are all assigned a grade level, from Freshman to Varsity, so you'll know how complicated the project is before you start, and you can go to the head of the class...

Touted as the "new yoga" and lauded for its myriad therapeutic benefits, knitting has become one of today's hottest trends. It's comforting, relaxing, and relieves stress of our day-to-day lives. So it comes as no surprise that many of A-listers of Hollywood and Broadway have taken to the craft. *Celebrity Scarves 2* (\$24.95, hard cover) is the second book in the award-winning series offering designs by Tinseltown's favorite knitters. This time around, they have set their knitting needles in motion to support the worthy cause of breast cancer research. From David Arquette (on the cover) to Dakota Fanning to Felicity Huffman and Jessica Capshaw, each celebrity has designed and created a scarf exclusively for this book. In addition to sharing a love for knitting, these celebrities are passionate about finding a cure for breast cancer. This book proves that knitting is no longer the preferred pastime of just grandmothers...

If you've got a stash of yarn, you'll find endless inspiration for creative knitting in *The Yarn Stash Workbook* (\$29.95, softcover) by Laura Bryant. Along with scores of tips for turning lonely skeins into spectacular designs, you'll find dozens of patterns for tees, pullovers, cardigans, and more -- adapt them to almost any yarn!

***** NOVEL IDEAS: Knit & Weave with Novelty Yarns *****

The following information appeared in YARN MARKET NEWS e-Update June 2006, in the guest forum by Helene Rush of Knit One, Crochet Too. It is re-printed with the gracious permission of Helene Rush and Karin Strom, editor of YMN. Enjoy this easy and simple "girly-girl" project with KNIT ONE, CROCHET TOO's fine yarns...

"Stoles, handbags, pillow covers, coverlets, square-top hats -- all look great when made in a quick-to-knit or easy-to-crochet mesh fabric woven through with novelties. Here's how:

1. Take a smooth base yarn and create a knitted or crocheted mesh.
 - 1 a. For the knit version, work right-side rows as follows on a multiple of 4 sts plus 1: K1, *yarn over (yo), slip 1, K2tog, pssso, yo, K1; repeat from * across. Purl on all wrong-side rows.
 - 1 b. For the crocheted version, work in basic filet crochet.
2. Bind off once your piece is the desired size (length).
3. With one or two different novelty yarns, weave alternately cut lengths in and out of your mesh fabric. Leave long tails to create fringe at each end, or weave in neatly.

This technique can be used to create garments: Substitute the mesh stitch for stockinette in any basic pattern (make sure you get the correct gauge). Once the piece is done, weave in your novelty fibers".

For more about basic filet crochet, see *The Crocheter's Companion* (\$19.95, spiral bound), available on our bookshelves. For instruction on crochet for knitters, please call for a private lesson here at Kathy's, or, The Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild cordially invites you to its July 27, 2006, meeting from 7-8:30 pm at the Ligonier Town Hall, Meeting Room A. Mrs. Peggy Maguire will be teaching a basic crochet mesh scarf woven with novelty yarns. Please bring a cotton or rayon blend base yarn, novelty ribbon yarn, a tape measure, crochet hook size H, and a tapestry needle.

Elizabeth Ladd of River Knits in Lafayette, Indiana, shared a simple belt pattern for use with corded yarns. Elizabeth casts on 7 stitches on a US size 6 needle and knits to the desired waist measurement. She then makes a long fringe, which she braids. Beads may be added to the fringe. Thanks, Elizabeth, for sharing your pattern. We think this would look great worked with PLYMOUTH YARNS "Linen Isle" (\$6.50, 50 grams, 86 yards, 50% cotton / 30% rayon / 20% linen)...

Tracey Earhart recommends both of these ideas to de-stress the holidays and special occasions by planning ahead for gift-giving. Create a few on-the-go packets with small projects for a stolen moment or two of knitting. Tracey's project of the month is "girly-girl" lacy washcloths and soap sacks. She recommends FIBER TRENDS patterns 215X "Bathing Beauties" (\$4.75) and 224X "Bathtime Blossoms" (\$5.50)...

A recent question from an inquiring knitter: "My felted bag pattern calls for 10-ply yarn, which I can't find. What does this mean?"

The Craft Yarn Council has established a weight classification system from 1 - 6 to help standardize weights of yarn. Because yarns come from all over the world, this can be confusing since not all manufacturers use this system. To our knowledge, 10-Ply is a term used primarily in Australia and New Zealand to designate a worsted or Aran weight yarn knitting at 4.5 - 5 sts per inch (CYCA weight classification 4), which should work for you. **Always** remember to do a gauge swatch when substituting yarns, however.



photo
© Classic Elite
Yarns



photo
© Classic Elite
Yarns

*****HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NEEDLEWORK MARKET*****

Kathy and Lisa attended the recent National Needlework Show in Indianapolis with eager anticipation. It's a time to see new products, talk with other shop owners, take a few classes and network with yarn manufacturers, magazine editors, book publishers, designers, suppliers and authors. In addition, LISA KNITS was a first-time wholesale vendor, introducing her wonderful line of patterns to attendees (her booth was most impressive, and it was Kathy's delight to be involved). We are very excited to share the details with you about our excursion and will be glad to accept pre-orders on any new items:

-- **CLASSIC ELITE YARNS:** The highlight of the market was Kathy's poster signing featuring her designs at the CLASSIC ELITE YARNS booth. Kathy is their special guest designer for Fall 2006. We will have a special "Catch the Magic of Cables" here for our customers in August (details in next newsletter), with Kathy signing posters and teaching a class with the chart from the original design shown on page 7, knit with "Princess". Kathy wishes to express her gratitude to CLASSIC ELITE's President Pat Chew, Vice President of Sales Betsy Perry, Director of the Luxury Division Sharon Brown and Creative Assistant Judy Croucher for the opportunity to work with them to develop these special new designs with some truly fabulous yarns. Pictured on pages 5 & 6 are two designs for the Luxury Division in "Stormy", a cashmere blend arriving later this summer. Other featured yarns include Skye Tweed, Montera, Wool Bamboo, Duchess and Inca Alpaca. Some of these yarns are already on our shelves and the pattern booklets will be here later this month...

-- **XRX / KNITTER'S MAGAZINE:** Lace knitting is a hot trend continuing into fall. Garments from the Fall 2006 issue were on display, which will feature two of Kathy's designs. Kathy's sweaters are a girly-girl openwork chevron pullover in PLYMOUTH YARNS "Royal Bamboo" and a soft lavender openwork textured pullover in RYC "Cashsoft DK". The latest in the *Best of Knitter's* series is "Jackets For Work and Play" coming this fall. One of Kathy's jackets from a classic issue of *Knitter's* will be included...

-- **BERROCO:** the season's fashion trends embrace so many options for knitters who love woolly yarns. We are witnessing the return of cables and inspirational colorwork, oversized tunics, ingenious skirts, leggings, vests and kimono shapes, many with a twist of asymmetry. BERROCO has revisited some of the knit trends from the 70's and 80's with an eye for modern simplicity. In addition to the "Ultra Alpaca" and "Ultra Silk" already on our shelves, look for "Pure Merino", an exquisite elegant yarn, to make its arrival at Kathy's soon...

-- **BRYSON DISTRIBUTING:** to our customers who have been anticipating the arrival of CLOVER "Knit Lite" needles, they are expected later this month. We will have the complete selection of the world's first lighted knitting needles, available in sizes 6, 8, 9, 10, 10.5, 11, 13 & 15 in assorted bright colors. Batteries are included and we will have the replacement batteries also. Knit anywhere -- even in the dark!

-- **LANTERN MOON:** The long-awaited "Destiny" ebony circular needles should arrive by the end of summer. We also will have new displays for the beautiful wooden needles and a limited number of "black sheep" measuring tapes...

***** MORE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NEEDLEARTS TRADE SHOW *****

-- **TAHKI / STACY CHARLES:** breakfast with Tahki's fall preview of fashions was a wonderful way to kick off the weekend! Mock copies of upcoming Tahki, S. Charles Collezione and Filatura di Crosa collections are available for preview and advance orders. Kathy's cabled family grouping, knit from "Bunny Print" yarn (now on display in the shop) was included in the slide presentation...



photo
© Classic Elite Yarns

-- **INTERWEAVE KNITS:** We chatted with Pam Allen at Lisa's booth. INTERWEAVE will be launching a new book, *Lace Style*, later this year. This book will showcase openwork garments from a variety of designers, including Kathy's lace & cable cardigan in two lengths. We are an auto-ship stockist which means that we receive shipments of new books as soon as they are available. *Andean-inspired Knits: Designs in Luxurious Alpaca* and *Knit Fix: Problem Solving for Knitters* will be available at the end of summer. Kathy's "first ever" afghan design will be seen in the Fall 2006 issue of KNITS -- it's a glorious, grand swinging cable, classic with a contemporary style...

-- **NASHUA HANDKNITS:** Susan Mills and Kristin Nicholas greeted us with details about some wonderful new yarns. In addition to six brand new colors in the fabulous "Julia", we will be looking forward to Creative Focus Superwash, a 100% superwash wool with great yardage & lots of color choice and Kid Mohair, a deliciously soft treat for natural fiber lovers. We will also be receiving trunk shows from the new pattern collections -- stay tuned for details. Two of Kathy's designs will be featured in upcoming booklets...

-- **VOGUE KNITTING / KNIT SIMPLE:** Editor Adina Klein predicts that we are at a fortunate juncture where knitting and fashion coincide. The main theme behind all the collections this fall is volume -- and, more specifically, the oversized sweater. It can be a pullover, V-neck, cardigan or vest, but it's big, easy to wear, and, most importantly, easy to knit. Adina's six major runway themes are: volume (bigger & better); baby doll (flirty & feminine); urban folklore (hipster, not hippie); 50's allure (cheeky classics); period piece (old-fashioned charm); and French resistance (sportswear for street urchins). More on these in future newsletters. Kathy's designs for upcoming *Knit Simple* issues include a cabled pullover in REYNOLDS "Blizzard" (easy knitting on big needles in a lovely alpaca blend; by the way, alpaca yarns are extremely popular) and a COLINETTE "Skye Tweed" textured ladies' V-neck cardigan (in the plus sizes feature)...

--**SKACEL COLLECTION:** Linda Braley, Design Director, told us that a jacket with matching stole or scarf is the "new twinset". Kathy designed a textured, shaped jacket in SKACEL's "Divine", a luscious cashmere blend that truly *is* divine, along with a companion wide scarf in "Preludio", a multi-color mohair mix. The scarf can be attached or may be detached to wear alone. Look for "Preludio" on our shelves later this fall, along with the gorgeous self-stripping mohair yarn, "Prisma"...

-- **CRYSTAL PALACE YARNS:** Frank Santoro showed us the beautiful new wools, "Aran", "Aran Print", "Aran Marl" and "Taos". In addition to being great basic wools for sweaters, these yarns all will felt, making them ideal choices for bags, clogs, and hats. "Bunny Hop", a fantastic combination of microfibers and bunny angora, will arrive early in July. This yarn is wonderful for socks and slippers, as well as childrens' garments...

***** **READER'S KNIT NIGHTS** *****

Join Kathy and Tracey for an evening of knitting on **Monday, July 3, 2006, and Monday, August 7, 2006 from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA. Volunteers will be on hand to help with knitting questions and how-to's, including instructions for beginners. These evenings will feature enjoyable knitting-related novels, recommended summer reads and fun knitting with friends...



photo
© Nashua Handknits

***** **CALENDAR OF EVENTS** *****

"Knit Knite" at Kathy's Kreations: Tuesday evenings, July 11, 2006, and August 8, 2006, 7 - 9 pm, (knitter's night out)

Join members of the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild for an evening of knitting, lots of fun conversation and plenty of advice from experienced knitters. All skill levels welcome -- come, sit & knit! It's free!

"Girly-Girl Time" July 14 - 22, 2006

Girls just want to have fun, and this is especially true of fiber friends. Tracey and the shopgals are celebrating "Girly-Girl Time" with a special promotion for knitting or crochet buddies. When you shop with a knitting or crochet friend, items on our sale table are buy one, get one free. To take advantage of this offer, you **must** come with a friend, and **both of you** must buy. The **free** ball will be the one of **equal or lesser** value. Travelling solo? You will not be left out if you come alone -- we have a free gift for you with your purchase (limit one per customer). There is a rumor that weekend festivities will include girly-girl cupcakes & chocolates...

Sidewalk sales Friday & Saturday, July 21 & 22, 2006 (outdoors, if weather permits; remember, it's "Beat the heat" month and it's cooler inside with the air conditioning!)

Catch the CLASSIC ELITE "Magic of Cables" Day in August -- details in next month's newsletter regarding Kathy's poster signing, booklet autographing and cables class!

***** **UPCOMING TRUNK SHOWS** *****

July 2006: our first NASHUA HANDKNITS collection featuring classic summer designs from NASHUA "Designer", "Vacation" and "Occasion" pattern booklets
August 2006: FIBER TRENDS patterns (projects made with BROWN SHEEP YARNS)

***** **FUN FRIDAY** *****

Dig out your UFO's (unfinished objects) & WIP's (works in progress) and join us on **Friday, July 21, 2006, from 10 am - 2 pm**, for a fun-filled day of knitting comradery. Joyce Bischoff will be here to answer your questions and provide expert knitting assistance, with wonderful tips for getting those UFO's back on track. It's free, it's fun, but please call ahead to let us know you will be coming. Please bring your knitting, a snack or lunch if you wish, a folding chair if you've got one, and your sense of humor. You deserve a knitting break!

Kathy's Kreations Kares: we concentrate on personal customer service & individual attention

Private knitting, crochet and hairpin lace lessons available by appointment.



photo
© Nashua Handknits

Have a happy summer, full of creativity -- KEEP KNITTING!

Kathy